

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-34 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 26 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-34 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 4-12, 14-15, 22-25, 27, 30-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,616,522 ("White"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn at least because White fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claim invention. For example, White does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element," as called for by claim 1. The Office Action states that White discloses a telescopic mount with a portion configured to tilt downward and a portion of the mount extends in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element. *See* Office Action at p. 1, ¶2. On the contrary, White does not teach a mount with a portion formed by a column. Furthermore, White fails to disclose that the mount with a portion formed by a column extends in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering device. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-12, 14-15, 22-25, 27, 30-31, and 34 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Claims 3 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,507,521 ("Steffens"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 3 and 16-19 depend from claim 1. The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of claim 1. White does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Steffens fails to cure the deficiencies of White. For

example, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests “a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element,” as called for by claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,411,167 (“Mohr”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 13 depends from claim 1. The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of claim 1. White does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Mohr fails to cure the deficiencies of White. For example, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests “a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element,” as called for by claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,910,597 (“Seko”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 20-21 depend from claim 1. The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of claim 1. White does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Seko fails to cure the deficiencies of White. For example, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests “a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element,” as called for by claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26, 28, 29, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,966,220 (“Forsyth”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claim 26 should be withdrawn at least because there is no motivation to combine White and Forsyth. White relates to “an energy absorbing steering column assembly for motor vehicles.” White at col. 1, lines 5-10. On the contrary, Forsyth relates to “intraurban/intracity transporting systems and ... travel in which a plurality of individual self propelled satellite passenger vehicles or cars are selectively combined in a controlled group.” Forsyth at col. 16-21. There is no suggestion to combine White with a transportation system, and likewise, there is no suggestion to combine Forsyth with a steering column. Because the rejection lacks a motivation to combine White with Forsyth, a prima facie case of obviousness is not met. MPEP §2143. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 depends from claim 26 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in this dependent claim.

Claims 29 and 32 depend from claim 1. The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of claim 1. White does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Forsyth fails to cure the deficiencies of White. For example, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests “a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the steering element,” as called for by claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29 and 32 is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,938,094 (“Cochard”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 33 depends from claim 1. The references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of claim 1. White does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. Cochard fails to cure the deficiencies of White. For example, neither reference discloses, teaches, or suggests “a mount, at least partially formed by a column ... wherein the column includes a portion extending in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation

of the steering element," as called for by claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 33 is respectfully requested.


Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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